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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

21171 7590 08/18/2008

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

PICH, PONNOREAY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2135

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/878,336

06/12/2001

Fujio Seki

2005.1001

2145

TITLE OF INVENTION: SWITCHING DEVICE, SWITCHING METHOD AND COMPUTER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF PREVENTING ERROR IN DATA TRANSMISSION, WHICH IS EASY TO USE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	11/18/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/878,336 06/12/2001 Fujio Seki 2005.1001 2145

TITLE OF INVENTION: SWITCHING DEVICE, SWITCHING METHOD AND COMPUTER SYSTEM CAPABLE OF PREVENTING ERROR IN DATA TRANSMISSION, WHICH IS EASY TO USE

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nonprovisional NO \$1440 \$300 \$0 \$1740 11/18/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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PICH, PONNOREAY 2135 713-201000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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09/878,336	06/12/2001	Fujio Seki	2005.1001	2145
21171	7590	08/18/2008	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			PICH, PONNOREAY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2135	
DATE MAILED: 08/18/2008				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 630 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 630 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/878,336

Examiner

PONNOREAY PICH

Applicant(s)

SEKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/1/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,9 and 21-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron Walker (Reg. no. 59,921) on 8/6/08. Mr. Walker authorized cancellation of all claims except claims 3, 9, and 21-24 which were previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Mr. Walker also authorized amendments to the allowed claims to fix minor informalities. As per MPEP 713.04 a separate interview summary form is not provided as the substance of the interview has been summarized herein.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMEND THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

1-2 (cancelled).

3 (currently amended) A switching device for controlling a connection between at least one private computer, at least one terminal corresponding to the at least one private computer, and a shared computer that can be operated by the at least one terminal, the switching device comprising:

a connecting unit that connects in a default position each terminal to a corresponding private computer and switches a connection destination of the terminal to [[a]] the at least one private computer corresponding to [[said]] the at least one terminal or the shared computer when a

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connection switching request transmitted from [[said]] the at least one terminal has been received;
and

a security unit that executes, for each terminal, identification processing of data that has been received from any one terminal and output to the at least one private computer or the shared computer, said the identification processing including utilizing a terminal number via which the at least one terminal is connected, the identification processing enciphering a received key code via use of the terminal number as an encryption key,

wherein the security unit comprises:

an enciphering unit that executes an enciphering processing local to each terminal, of data that has been transmitted from any one terminal and received by the switching device;

a first deciphering unit that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing local to the at least one terminal corresponding to the at least one private computer, of the data that has been output from the switching device to any one private computer; and

a second deciphering unit that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing local to the at least one terminal currently connected to the shared computer, of the data that has been output from the switching device to the shared computer,

wherein the enciphering unit bit shifts the received data to a first direction between a highest bit and a lowest bit by only [[a]] each terminal number,

the first deciphering unit bit shifts an output data to a second direction opposite to the first direction by the terminal number corresponding to the at least one private computer, and

the second deciphering unit bit shifts the output data to a second direction opposite to the first direction by the terminal number of a terminal currently connected to the shared computer.

4-8 (Cancelled).

9 (Currently amended) A switching method for a switching device controlling a connection between at least one private computer, at least one terminal corresponding to the at least one private computer, and a shared computer that can be operated by the at least one terminal, the switching method comprising:

connecting in a default position each terminal to a corresponding private computer and a connection destination of the at least one terminal is switched to a private computer corresponding to the at least one terminal or the shared computer when a connection switching request transmitted from the at least one terminal has been received; and

identification processing for each terminal executed on data that has been received from any one terminal and output to the at least one private computer or the shared computer, the identification processing including utilizing a terminal number via which the at least one terminal is connected, the identification processing enciphering a received key code via use of the terminal number as an encryption key,

wherein a security comprises:

enciphering processing of each terminal executed on the data that has been transmitted from any one terminal and received by the switching device;

deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing of the at least one terminal corresponding to the at least one private computer executed of the data that has been output from the switching device to any one private computer; and

deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing of the at least one terminal currently connected to the shared computer executed for data that has been output from the switching device to the shared computer,

wherein during the enciphering processing, the received data is bit shifted to a first direction between a highest bit and a lowest bit by only $[[a]]$ each terminal number,

during the first deciphering processing, an output data is bit shifted to a second direction opposite to the first direction by the terminal number corresponding to the at least one private computer, and

during the second deciphering processing, the output data is bit shifted to a second direction opposite to the first direction by the terminal number of a terminal currently connected to the shared computer.

10-20 (Cancelled).

21 (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

at least one private computer;

at least one terminal corresponding to the at least one private computer;

at least one shared computer connected to a network; and

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a switching device disposed between the at least one private computer and the at least one terminal, for relaying data between the at least one terminal and the at least one shared computer, the switching device comprising:

a connecting unit that connects in a default position each terminal to a corresponding private computer and switches a connection destination of the at least one terminal to a private computer corresponding to the at least one terminal or the at least one shared computer when a connection switching request transmitted from the at least one terminal has been received; and

a security unit that executes, for each terminal, identification processing on the data that has been received from any one terminal and output to the at least one private computer or the at least one shared computer, the identification processing including utilizing a terminal number via which the at least one terminal is connected, the identification processing enciphering a received key code via use of the terminal number as an encryption key, the security unit comprising:

an enciphering unit that executes an enciphering processing of each terminal, on the data that has been transmitted from any one terminal and received by the switching device, the enciphering unit for bit shifting the received data in a first direction between a highest bit and a lowest bit by each terminal number;

a first deciphering unit that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing of the at least one terminal corresponding to the at least one

private computer, on the data that has been output from the switching device to any one private computer, the first deciphering unit for bit shifting the output data to a second direction opposite to the first direction by the terminal number corresponding to the at least one private computer; and

a second deciphering unit that executes a deciphering processing corresponding to the enciphering processing of the at least one terminal currently connected to the at least one shared computer, on data that has been output from the switching device to the at least one shared computer, the second deciphering unit for bit shifting output data to a second direction opposite to the first direction by the terminal number of a terminal currently connected to the at least one private computer.

25-39 (Cancelled).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PONNOREAY PICH whose telephone number is (571) 272-7962. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-4:30pm Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ponnoreay Pich/

Examiner, Art Unit 2135

/KimYen Vu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2135